

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
18 December 2003 (18.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2003/104922 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 15/173**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/017663
- (22) International Filing Date: 5 June 2003 (05.06.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/387,054 7 June 2002 (07.06.2002) US
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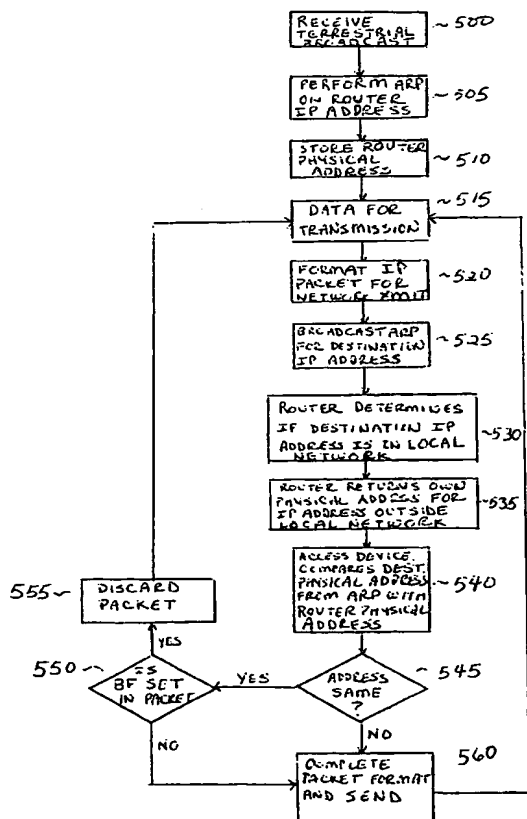
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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING THE DISTRIBUTION OF DIGITALLY ENCODED DATA IN A NETWORK



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and a method for controlling distribution of digital content from a device attached to a network to another device outside the network. The device receives a digital signal containing content (500), the digital signal having an authorization field indicative of a first transport mode authorizing the content for distribution outside the network, and of a second transport mode wherein the content is not authorized for transmission outside the network. The method comprises the steps of receiving location information of a router (505) on the network for routing content to devices outside the network; receiving destination data indicative of location information associated with a destination device to which the device intends to distribute the content; determining whether the destination device is outside the network based on the router location information and the received destination data; examining the authorization field (515) and, inhibiting transmission of the content if the destination device is outside the network and the digital signal is in the inhibit mode.



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
24 June 2004

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/17663

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 15/173  
US CL : 709/238, 231, 201

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 709/238, 231, 201; 370/392, 401

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
WEST

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,E	US 6,711,172 B1 (LI) 23 March 2004	1-18
A	US 5,996,021 (CIVANLAR et al) 30 November 1999	1-18
A	US 6,415,323 B1 (McCANNE et al) 02 July 2002	1-18
A	US 6,167,444 (BODEN et al) 26 December 2000	1-18
A,E	US 6,693,878 B1 (DARUWALLA et al) 17 February 2004	1-18

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"&"

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 April 2004 (18.04.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

03 MAY 2004

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